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DALEA VILLOSA VAR VILLOSA **SILKY PRAIRIE CLOVER**

Silky Prairie Clover is a perennial with 1-many ascending or lax, branched stems that are 20-40 cm high, and arising from red-orange roots and a rootcrown. The alternate, pinnately compound leaves are 2-4 cm long and have 11-21 linear leaflets. The foliage has numerous sunken glands with dense long hairs. The pink to rose-purple flowers are densely crowded in cylindrical spikes that are 3-12 cm long, at the ends of stems and branches. Each flower is 4-6 mm long and has 4 separate petals, a densely spreading, hairy, 5-lobed, cup-shaped calyx, and 5 stamens that are usually longer than the petals. The narrowly egg-shaped pods are 2-3 mm long and densely long and hairy. Flowering in late June-early August.

Other *DALEA* in Montana usually have 11 or more leaflets, and are not as conspicuously hairy. The combination of the long, hairy calyx and the 5 stamens further separate this species from other *DALEA* and from species of *PSORALEA* and *AMORPHA*.